



Quarterly news from DCEDC

The DCEDC is a collaborative public-private organization engaged in existing industry expansion services as well as new industry location services to grow and diversify the Davidson County economy.

Workforce Development continues to be the hot topic in economic development as unemployment rates remain below 4.2% at the local and national level. Driving the manufacturing career message deeper into early education is one strategy being pursued - preparing children and parents to make informed education decisions, launching careers with professional expertise at little to no education debt and achieving sustained, above average income security.

Workforce Housing is also a national challenge as there has been a void of new product delivered over the past 20 years within an acceptable price range for the working middle class. A practical solution will require public/private collaboration to achieve housing that fits into a healthy financial family budget.

The Davidson-Davie Apprenticeship Consortium (DDAC) held its Annual Apprenticeship Event at Sapona Ridge Country Club. Thirteen Apprentices, representing "The Class of 2022", joined their families for dinner, culminating in a formal signing ceremony. Congratulations to these future manufacturing leaders
(Signing Ceremony Highlights)





DCEDC Contacts:

Craig Goodson – President/CEO
[cmgoodson@davidsoncountyedc.com](mailto:cmgoodson@ davidsoncountyedc.com)
336-243-1900 (office) 336-934-3097 (mobile)

Ree Smith – Existing Industry Services
Coordinator and Office Manager
rsmith@davidsoncountyedc.com
336-243-1900 (office)

As technologies advance at a continually rapid pace, Affordable High-Speed Internet Access is critical to urban, suburban and rural growth. Finding solutions to this challenge must be a priority at the local, regional and State level. DCEDC is working with several companies on strategies to enhance affordable service for residents and business and seek collaborative funding for improvements that will put us in an advantageous position for sustained growth.

On the Industrial front, demand for space is forecast to decrease in the U.S. Net absorption of industrial space averaged 60,000,000 square feet during 2017 and 2019 but is expected to shrink to only 37,000,000 square feet in 2019. Lower than expected GDP growth has slowed the pace of net completions in industrial space as business investment goes to the sidelines amid recent trade, Brexit and stock market concerns. That said, supply and demand in the industrial sector is expected to remain stable in most markets through 2019. Positive outcomes between the U.S., China and Mexico should re-energize global growth as the recent retreat has generally priced in an outlook of concern.

Amid this pause in growth, we must remain dedicated to pursuing educational curricula that fully prepare students with the knowledge, experience and life skills to excel, with purpose, in such fields as advanced manufacturing, healthcare, electrical and mechanical professions through a collaborative K-12 / Community College- driven experience. These careers are projected in many reports to likely pay two times the average Davidson County annual wage \$39,800 by 2028.

The DCEDC website

www.davidsoncountyedc.com created in 2017, is an excellent resource for information about Davidson County, North Carolina, real estate assistance for industrial sites and buildings, and a one-stop resource for links important to business and industry. Please visit and let us know if there is additional information that would be valuable to your business or industry sector.

Craig & Ree